

# OK to leave bands and pins in place?

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How high is the danger of leaving supportive bands and pins in place after implant surgery?

Here's the situation I'm asking about:

My girlfriend had four teeth extracted and dental implants installed about 15 months ago (with bone grafts), now she's ready to have the abutments installed for a permanent bridge. During the original surgery, a teflon band was put in place to better secure one of the implants, with a pin to help secure the teflon band. The band and pin caused her no problems whatsoever -- in fact, she didn't even know about them until a follow-up visit about a year after the surgery. At that time, the periodontist told her about them and said that they'd have to be removed before the abutments were installed. She was uneasy about this, as she didn't want to lose any more tissue (which the periodontist confirmed would happen). She asked if removing the band and pin was 100% necessary, he said that some patients opted to leave them in. She decided not to have them removed. (He asked her to sign a release, which she did.)

But... Now that she's ready to have the abutments installed, the periodontist says that he's spoken with some colleagues who say that it's not a good idea to leave the band and pin in place. However, my girlfriend is adamantly opposed to having them removed.

So, I'm hoping someone can answer this question: How likely is it that my girlfriend will suffer later complications if she does not allow the periodontist to remove the band and pin?

I know that it's not possible to make a prediction in any specific case, but I was hoping that someone here could give me an idea of what kind of risk she'd be taking. For example, if 95% of patients who refuse to have the band and pin removed suffer complications, I'll try to convince my girlfriend to have them removed -- but if only 5% of patients have problems, I won't bother to try to change her mind.

Thanks so much for your help!

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